

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 8-25 are pending in the present application.

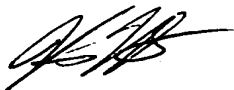
Applicants wish to thank Examiner Robinson for the indication that Claims 1 and 2 are free from the art of record and allowable. Applicants have attended to the noted formal matters with respect to Claim 2 and have canceled non-elected Claims 3-7. In addition, Applicants have added new Claims 8-25, which more specifically define the claimed and allowed alkaline protease. These claims are dependent from Claims 1 and 2. As such, these claims should be entered and allowed.

The objection to the Abstract is believed to have been obviated by amendment. The Examiner has requested that Applicants correct a typographical error in the Abstract. Applicants have made the appropriate amendment to address this criticism. As such, withdrawal of this ground of objection is requested.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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